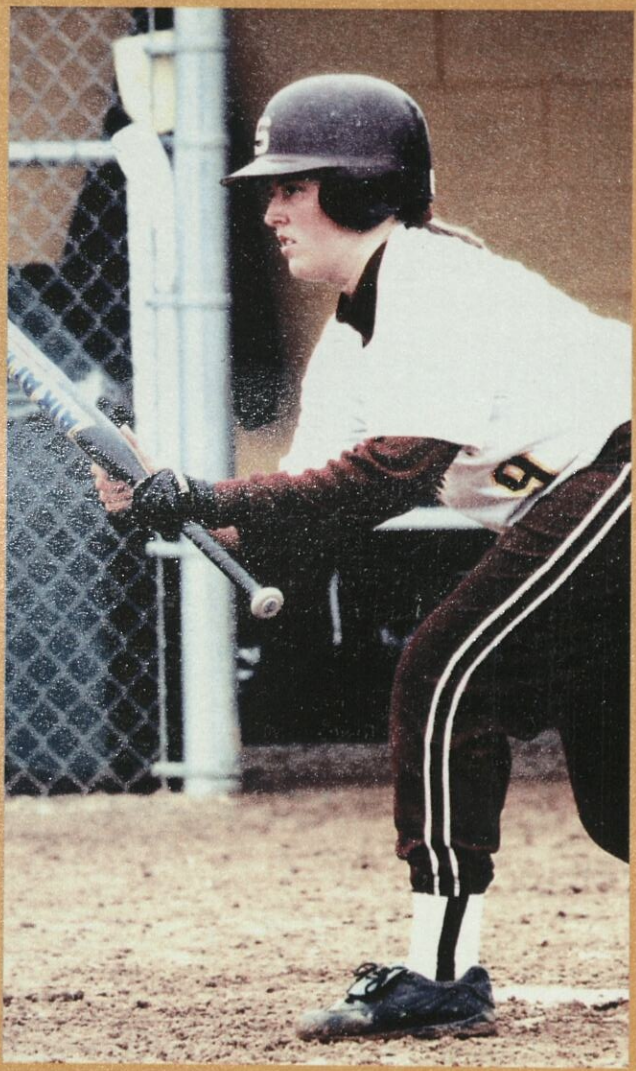
SEAGULLS

SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY

1999

SOFTBALL



SSU at a glance

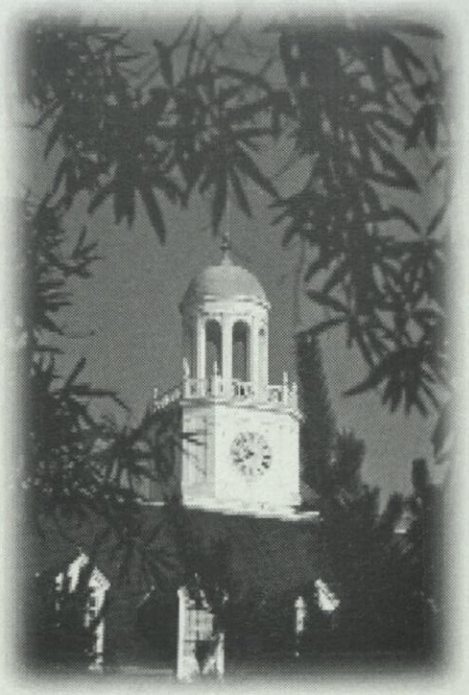
The resources of a University ...
6,000 students from 36 states and 50 foreign countries
29 undergraduate and 8 graduate programs
200 full-time tenure-track faculty, 85 percent with terminal degrees, including National Endowment for the Humanities scholars and Fulbright professors.
NCAA Division III Athletics, 9 men's, 10 women's intercollegiate teams; 22 intramural sports

... with small-school opportunities.
Approachable faculty (17:1 student/faculty ratio)
Honors program with dedicated faculty at the Bellavance Honors Center. Ten residence complexes including traditional, co-ed, suite and apartment styles.

The security of state support ...
1998-99 tuition, room, board and fees: $9,392 per year for Maryland residents; $13,602 per year out-of-state.
A library with over 800,000 volumes, periodicals, microforms and databases including word processing and computer labs. Access to collections throughout the country.

... with the benefits of private funding.
Altogether, SSU awards nearly $1 million in academic scholarships each year. More than $24 million in private endowments supports some of those scholarships and provides for some of the finest educational programs.

In an ideal–and idyllic–location:
Salisbury, MD, is 30 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean and Ocean City, MD, and 20 miles east of the Chesapeake Bay; 2 hours from Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Wilmington, DE. The campus is 2 1/2 hours from Norfolk, VA, and Philadelphia, PA, and 4 1/2 hours from New York.



Come see us–in person, or in cyberspace. We'd love to see your smiling face, but if you can't get here, check out our Web site.
We're at **http://www.ssu.edu.**

SSU's campus is in an attractive, residential neighborhood of stately homes on sculpted lawns, less than one-half mile from the banks of the Wicomico River. The campus includes 34 buildings on 125 landscaped acres. Students walk from one end of campus to the other in about 5 minutes.

Head Coach Margie Knight

Margie Knight has wasted little time in establishing herself as one of Salisbury State University's most successful coaches since joining the Sea Gull staff in 1996. Knight serves as the head coach of both the women's softball and volleyball programs, and has brought immediate success to both teams after a distinguished coaching and teaching tenure at North Caroline High School in Ridgely, MD.

In just three seasons, Knight has quickly made her presence felt at SSU. In her inaugural softball season in 1997, she led the Sea Gulls to a school record 33-14 softball record and a spot in the NCAA Tournament's Atlantic Regional. The Gulls finished one win short of advancing to the Division III World Series for the first time in school history, and finished the year ranked sixth in the final national poll.

Knight's second season with the Sea Gulls was even more impressive. SSU set another season record for wins with a 36-10 mark in 1998, while also establishing a school record with a 12-game winning streak. For the first time ever, Salisbury State earned the number one seed in the NCAA Tournament's Atlantic Regional and also achieved the prize it just missed in 1997, a berth in the College World Series. SSU won its opening game at the eight-team Division III World Series and finished the year fifth in the nation. The Gulls were ranked fourth in the season's final National Fastpitch Coaches Association poll.

The Gulls completed another 33-14 campaign in 1999 and returned to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in three seasons under Knight's leadership. SSU also broke its one year-old record for consecutive wins with a 14-game winning streak to start the season. The Gulls captured their third straight capital Athletic Conference championship and extended their conference winning streak to 30 straight games.

Adding to her long list of honors from the high school ranks, Knight was named the Capital Athletic Conference's softball coach of the year in both 1997 and 1998. She added another honor in 1999, winning the Atlantic Region's coach of the year award. Knight also recorded her 100th career softball win during the 1999 season.

Knight, a 1979 graduate of the University, returned to her alma mater after building an impressive resume of success at the prep level. She won state high school championships in both softball and volleyball during her 13-year head coaching career at North Caroline. The Bulldogs captured the state softball title in 1988 and 1991, and won the state volleyball championship in 1990.

Knight compiled a 392-77 combined record in the two sports during her tenure, a winning percentage of over 83 percent. Additionally, she received volleyball coach of the year honors seven times and was named softball coach of the year four times.

A native of Catonsville, MD, Knight was no stranger to athletic success as a collegiate athlete at Salisbury State. She was a four-year letter-winner in women's basketball and a three-year letter-winner in both softball and volleyball. Additionally, Knight served as a team captain for two years in each of those sports. She was also named MVP of the basketball squad twice and MVP of the softball team as a senior. In recognition of her outstanding collegiate career, she was inducted into the SSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

In addition to her coaching duties, Knight also serves as an instructor of physical education at Salisbury State.

The 1999 Sea Gull coaching staff, pictured (left-right) are Assistant Coach Amanda Kopchinski, Head Coach Margie Knight and Assistant Coach Tom Stitcher. Stitcher completed his eighth season as an assistant in 1999, while Kopchinski, a former team captain and all-conference player, served her first year as a member of the staff.

1999 Season in Review

Gulls Earn Third Straight NCAA Tournament Bid

Three-peats seemed to be the common theme for the 1999 Salisbury State softball team. The Sea Gulls recorded their third straight 30-plus win season, captured their third straight Capital Athletic Conference championship and returned to the NCAA Championship Tournament for the third straight year. In addition, the season included a school record, 14-game winning streak to start the year, back-to-back no-hitters by senior RHP **Kelly Bradford** and a number of individual school records along the way. The last three seasons have been the most successful three-year stretch in the program's history, with a combined 102 wins.

Salisbury State won both the regular season and tournament title in the Capital Athletic Conference for the third straight season and also dominated the 1999 all-conference team. The Sea Gulls placed seven players on the all-CAC team, including six on the first team. Senior 2B **Megan Hopper** was named CAC Player of the Year, marking the third straight season that a Sea Gull has won the award. Joining Hopper on the first team were C **Vicki Hardisty**, SS **Stephanie Bennett,** OF **April Harned**, OF **Erin Gross** and P **Kelly Bradford.** Pitcher **Erin Willey** was named to the second team. SSU carries a 30-game conference winning streak into the 2000 season.

Awards and honors for the Sea Gulls in 1999 did not end with the all-conference teams. Five players earned all-Atlantic Region honors. Hardisty, Harned and Hopper were recognized on the all-region first team, while Bradford and Bennett were selected to the second team. Harned and Hopper were also named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA all-America third team. In addition, **Margie Knight** was tabbed as the NFCA's Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.

SSU's season-opening 14-game winning streak included six wins and the championship of the Virginia Wesleyan Tournament. It was during that tournament that Bradford hurled back-to-back no-hitters, blanking Emory & Henry 14-0 and tournament host Virginia Wesleyan 8-0. By the end of the season, Bradford set new team records for victories in a season (22) and career (57), while also claiming SSU's career record for strike outs (217).

CAC Player of the Year Hopper also established a few new marks during the '99 season. Hopper broke her own season record for runs with 61 and set a new record for hits with 70. She also became SSU's career leader in at-bats (565), runs (198), hits (228), and triples (12).

Despite playing just two seasons, senior SS Stephanie Bennett also leaves a strong impression in the SSU recordbook. Bennett finished among the all-time leaders in runs, hits, doubles, triples and RBI. Her 47 RBI led the Sea Gulls and the conference in 1999, while her 18 doubles were the second highest single-season total in team history.

In all, five lineup regulars finished with batting averages of .300 or better, led by Hopper's .467 average. SSU's team batting average of .348 places the Gulls among the national leaders for the third straight year. Salisbury also finished among the national statistical leaders in runs per game (6.8) and doubles (79).

1999 Final Results

Final Overall Record: 33-14 CAC Record: 8-0 Home: 14-6 Away/Neut: 19-8

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score	Record	Pitcher	Notes
3/8	ST. JOSEPH'S	W	15-0 (5)	1-0	Bradford (1-0)	Harned grand slam
3/8	ST. JOSEPH'S	W	20-0 (5)	2-0	Willey (1-0)	Harned 4-4, 5 RBI; Hardisty 4-4, 3 RBI
3/12-13	Methodist v	W	6-5 (6)	3-0	Bradford (2-0)	Bennett, Gross 3 RBI each
	St. Thomas Aquinas v	W	14-1 (4)	4-0	Willey (2-0)	Harned 2 RBI; Warrington HR
	Emory & Henry v	W	14-0 (4)	5-0	Bradford (3-0)	Bradford no-hitter; Bennett 3 RBI
	Virginia Wesleyan v	W	8-0 (5)	6-0	Bradford (4-0)	Bradford no-hitter
	Moravian v	W	3-2(10)	7-0	Willey (3-0)	Bennett 2 RBI; SF in 10th
	Methodist v	W	7-2	8-0	Bradford (5-0)	Hooper 3 hits, 2 runs; Gulls first place
3/16	Christopher Newport	W	7-6	9-0	Bradford (6-0)	Hopper, Hardisty 2 RBI each
3/16	Christopher Newport	W	11-1 (5)	10-0	Willey (4-0)	Sexton 3-run HR: Gross 3 runs
3/19-20	LYNCHBURG s	W	12-0 (5)	11-0	Bradford (7-0)	Gross 3-4, 3 RBI; Harned 3-4, 3 runs
	MUHLENBERG s	W	4-2 (6)	12-0	Willey (5-0)	Hardisty 2-3, 2-run HR
	URSINUS s	W	8-7 (8)	13-0	Bradford (8-0)	Gross 2-3, 2 RBI; Harned 4-5
	MORAVIAN s	W	6-3	14-0	Bradford (9-0)	School-record 14th straight win
	WILKES s	L	5-11	14-1	Willey (5-1)	Gulls lose in tournament final
3/26-27	Cortland State m	L	1-3 (6)	14-2	Bradford (9-1)	Harned 2-3, RBI
	Springfield m	W	10-6 (6)	15-2	Bradford (10-1)	Harned 2-run HR; Warrington 3 RBI
	William Paterson m	L	1-5 (6)	15-3	Bradford (10-2)	Hardisty 2-3; Gross RBI
	Kean m	W	4-0	16-3	Bradford (11-2)	Bradford 2-hitter; Hopper 2-4, 2 runs
4/1	WESLEY	W	3-0	17-3	Bradford (12-2)	Bradford 3-hitter; Bennett 2 RBI
4/3	NEW JERSEY	L	1-4	17-4	Bradford (12-3)	Bennett, Gross 2-3
4/3	NEW JERSEY	L	3-6	17-5	Willey (5-2)	Harned, Gross, Wallace RBIs
4/6	VA. WESLEYAN	L	2-4	17-6	Bradford (12-4)	Harned, Hardisty RBIs
4/6	VA. WESLEYAN	W	5-4	18-6	Willey (6-2)	Harned 2-3, 2 RBI; Hopper 2-3
4/9	M. WASHINGTON *	W	13-3 (5)	19-6	Bradford (13-4)	Harned 4-4, 2 runs, 2 RBI
4/9	M. WASHINGTON *	W	9-1 (5)	20-6	Willey (7-2)	Harned, Hardisty, Hopper 2-3 each
4/11	Montclair State	L	1-8	20-7	Bradford (13-5)	Hardisty 1-2, double
4/11	Montclair State	L	4-7	20-8	Willey (7-3)	Bennett 3-4; Hopper triple, 2 RBI
4/13	Catholic *	W	8-1	21-8	Bradford (14-5)	Bennett, Warrington 3 RBI each
4/13	Catholic *	W	5-2	22-8	Willey (8-3)	Bennett, Hardisty, Gross 2 hits each
4/15	ROWAN	L	3-7	22-9	Bradford (14-6)	Bennett RBI triple
4/15	ROWAN	L	3-11(6)	22-10	Willey (8-4)	Gross, Bennett RBIs
4/18	York *	W	4-0	23-10	Bradford (15-6)	Bradford 5-hitter; Hardisty 2 RBI
4/18	York *	W	10-6	24-10	Bradford (16-6)	Hopper 2-4, 4 RBI; Gross 2-4, 3 RBI
4/20	GALLAUDET *	W	11-3	25-10	Bradford (17-6)	Bennett 3-4, 2 RBI; Hardisty, Sexton 2 hits
4/20	GALLAUDET *	W	12-1 (5)	26-10	Willey (9-4)	Hardisty, Harned 2 doubles, 2 RBI
4/22	Washington	W	8-0 (6)	27-10	Bradford (18-6)	Bradford 2-hitter; Harned, Gross 2 RBI
4/22	Washington	W	10-0 (5)	28-10	Willey (10-4)	Willey 5-hitter; Gross HR, 3 RBI
4/24	CATHOLIC	W	13-2 (5)	29-10	Bradford (19-6)	CAC Tournament Semifinal
4/24	YORK	W	8-0 (5)	30-10	Bradford (20-6)	CAC Tournament Championship
4/25	Chowan	W	6-3	31-10	Bradford (21-6)	**Coach Knight 100th career win**
4/25	Chowan	W	9-1 (5)	32-10	Willey (11-4)	Bennett 3-3, 4 RBI
4/28	Messiah	L	3-10	32-11	Bradford (21-7)	Hopper 3-4, triple
4/28	Messiah	L	3-4	32-12	Willey (11-5)	Hardisty 2 RBI; Bennett 3-4
5/14	Roanoke (NCAA)	W	5-3(10)	33-12	Bradford (22-7)	Harned 2-run HR in 10th
5/14	Rowan (NCAA)	L	0-6	33-13	Willey (11-6)	Bennett double; Hopper, Gross singles
5/15	Montclair (NCAA)	L	2-3	33-14	Bradford (22-8)	Gulls eliminated from Atlantic Regional

Home games in CAPS v Virginia Wesleyan Tournament-SSU 1st place * CAC game
s SSU Sea Gull Invitational-SSU 2nd place m Montclair-Kean Classic-SSU 4th place

1999 Sea Gull Roster

No.	Name	Pos	Year	Hometown	High School
2	Megan Hopper	2B	Sr	Millsboro, DE	Sussex Central
3	Diana Wallace	OF	Fr	Monrovia, MD	Linganore
4	Kristen Seaton	IF	Fr	Pittsville, MD	Parkside
5	Jacki Warrington	OF	Fr	Lewes, DE	Cape Henlopen
6	Erin Gross	C/OF	So	Williamsport, MD	Williamsport
7	April Harned	C/OF	So	Denton, MD	North Caroline
8	Robin Ferdetta	2B	So	Ewing, NJ	Ewing
9	Vicki Hardisty	C	Jr	Beltsville, MD	High Point
10	Kellie Smigocki	3B	Fr	Silver Spring, MD	Paint Branch
11	Shannon Monroney	3B	So	Endicott, NY	Union Endicott
12	Lori Carrion	1B	Sr	Earleville, MD	Bohemia Manor
13	Carrie Digirolamo	OF	So	Mount Laurel, NJ	Lenape
14	Erin Willey	P	So	Denton, MD	North Caroline
15	Stephanie Bennett	SS	Sr	Millersville, MD	Old Mill
17	Heather Sexton	OF	Jr	Millsboro, DE	Sussex Central
18	Jennifer Powell	P/1B	Jr	Salisbury, MD	James M. Bennett
19	Kelly Bradford	P	Sr	Upper Marlboro,MD	Riverdale Baptist
20	Elise Micena	3B	Fr	Lake Ronkonkoma, NY	Sachem

Head Coach: Margie Knight (3rd year)
Assistants: Dr. Tom Stitcher, Amanda Kopchinski

Sea Gull Honor Roll

MVPs

1980 Robin Tyler
1981 Sissy Natoli
1982 Carolyn Huston/Pam Gonce
1983 Cindy Zile
1984 Donna Headlee
1985 Terri Timmons
1986 Dawn Taylor
1987 Jodi Yingling
1988 Tina DeJaco/Jodi Yingling
1989 Terri Sharpless
1990 Kristy Keil
1991 Saundra Miller/Sharrey Hammond
1992 Dianne Racine
1993 Sandy Lawless
1994 Dianne Racine
1995 Lauren Spears
1996 Kara Burman
1997 Myra Parks
1998 Jen Dodson
1999 Megan Hopper

Most Improved

1987 Laura Fisher
1988 Diane Bickford
1989 Kristy Keil
1990 Saundra Miller
1991 Yvette Hess
1992 Heather McIntosh
1993 Laura Heath
1994 Michelle Brosius
1995 Kristin Heath
1996 Lori Carrion
1997 Becky Fox/Julie Clark
1998 Lori Carrion
1999 Erin Willey

Coach's Award

1987 Kristy Keil
1988 Debbie Scott
1989 Karen Sipple
1990 Jane Cleveland
1991 Saundra Miller
1992 Sandy Lawless
1993 Sonja Akers
1994 Melissa Manz
1995 Heather McIntosh
1996 Jen Dodson
1997 Kerri Smith
1998 Megan Hopper
1999 Kelly Bradford
Robin Ferdetta

The 1999 team captains celebrate after accepting the CAC plaque for claiming the conference championship. Pictured (left-right) are Lori Carrion, Stephanie Bennett, Megan Hopper and Kelly Bradford.

1999 Post-season Honors Aplenty for Sea Gulls

Following a 33-14 finish, a third straight Capital Athletic Conference championship and a third consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament, there were numerous post-season awards accumulated by members of the 1999 Salisbury State University softball team. The Sea Gulls placed fourth in the NCAA Atlantic Regional.

As a reward for completing a third straight undefeated CAC campaign, Salisbury State placed seven players on the all-conference team. As a follow-up, the Sea Gulls placed five players on the all-Atlantic Region first and second teams, and three players on the ECAC All-Star team. The individual players cited were:

C **Vicki Hardisty** (Beltsville, MD/High Point HS) The junior earned first team all-region honors after hitting .398 for the season. She led the Sea Gulls with 21 walks, was second on the team with 11 doubles, third with 33 runs scored and finished fourth with 33 RBI.

OF **April Harned** (Denton, MD/North Caroline HS) The sophomore joins Hardisty on the all-region first team while also earning ECAC All-Star honors. Harned hit .390 this season, with a team-leading six home runs. She finished second on the team with 45 RBI.

2B **Megan Hopper** (Millsboro, DE/Sussex Central HS) The senior is the third Sea Gull player to earn first team all-region accolades. She is also the only repeat member on the 11-player ECAC All-Star team. Hopper led the Gulls with a .467 batting average, eight doubles, seven triples and an SSU record 61 runs scored. She was also the CAC's Player of the Year.

RHP **Kelly Bradford** (Upper Marlboro, MD/Riverdale Baptist HS) The senior received second team all-region honors and also joined Harned and Hopper on the ECAC All-Star team. Bradford finishes her three-year Sea Gull career as SSU's all-time winning pitcher with 57 wins, including a single-season record of 22 this year. Bradford was also SSU's only representative on last weekend's Atlantic Regional all-tournament team.

SS **Stephanie Bennett** (Millersville, MD/Old Mill HS) The senior earned second team all-region honors while hitting .425 this season. She led the Gulls with 47 RBI and 18 doubles while finishing second on the team with 61 hits and 54 runs.

April Harned earned first team all-conference and all-region honors and third team all-America status in 1999. The sophomore outfielder led the CAC with six home runs and finished second with 45 RBI.

Sea Gull Recordbook

Career Leaders

Hits		
Megan Hopper	228	(1996-99)
Becky Keller	183	(1994-97)
Myra Parks	174	(1996-98)
Jen Dodson	170	(1995-98)
Kristin Heath	164	(1995-98)
Jen Bowman	151	(1993-97)
Kara Burman	135	(1994-97)
Stephanie Bennett	133	(1998-99)
Vicki Hardisty	122	(1997-99)
Home Runs		
Myra Parks	29	(1996-98)
Becky Keller	22	(1994-97)
Kristin Heath	15	(1995-98)
April Harned	12	(1998-99)
Jen Dodson	9	(1995-98)
Jen Bowman	8	(1993-97)
Tracy Layfield	5	(1994-97)
Laura Heath	5	(1992-95)
RBI		
Becky Keller	148	(1994-97)
Myra Parks	139	(1996-98)
Jen Dodson	119	(1995-98)
Jen Bowman	108	(1993-97)
Kristin Heath	102	(1995-98)
Stephanie Bennett	84	(1998-99)
April Harned	82	(1998-99)
Kara Burman	71	(1994-97)
Pitching Wins		
Kelly Bradford	57	(1997-99)
Tracy Layfield	51	(1994-97)
Sonja Akers	36	(1990-93)
Amy Geppi	28	(1988-91)
Erin Willey	17	(1998-99)

Team Records
(single season)

Victories	36	1998
Most Consecutive Wins	14	1999
Games Played	47	1997
Runs Scored	367	1998
Hits	501	1998
Doubles	114	1998
Triples	20	1998
Home Runs	31	1998
Batting Average	.387	1978
Sacrifices	63	1998
Walks	123	1985
Most Strikeouts by SSU Pitchers	135	1985
Lowest ERA	1.40	1985

Sea Gull Quick Facts

Location	Salisbury, MD
Founded	1925
Enrollment	6,000
President	Dr. William C. Merwin
Colors	Maroon & Gold
Nickname	Sea Gulls
Affiliation	NCAA Division III
Conference	Capital Athletic (CAC)
Home Field	Sea Gull Field
Surface	All-dirt (infield), Grass (outfield)
Director of Athletics	Dr. Michael Vienna
Athletics Department Phone	410-548-3503
Athletics Department Fax	410-546-2639
Sports Information Director	Paul Ohanian
Sports Information Phone	410-543-6016
Sports Information Fax	410-543-6068
Head Coach	Margie Knight, 3 years
Alma Mater	Salisbury State ('79)
Record at School	102-38
Career Record	102-38
Coach's Phone	410-543-6352
Assistant Coaches	Tom Stitcher, Amanda Kopchinski
1999 Record	33-14 (10-0 in CAC)
Highest 1999 National Ranking	Ninth (NFCA poll)

SSU's Athletics Philosophy

Salisbury State University, a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division III, offers 19 intercollegiate sports for men and women. In addition to NCAA membership, SSU competes as a member of the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

As a member of the NCAA's Division III, Salisbury State places the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience. In doing so, it seeks to strengthen the integration of objectives and programs in athletics with academic and developmental objectives, and to assure the integration of athletes with other students.

SSU places special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants, with emphasis on the internal constituency (students, alumni and special friends) rather than on the general public and its entertainment needs.

The SSU athletics program is further characterized by the following principles:

- Participants receive the same treatment as other students. They have no unique privileges in admission, academic advising, course selection, grading, living accommodations or financial aid. Similarly, athletes are not denied rights and opportunities that would be available to them as non-athletes.
- Sports for men and women are given equal emphasis and the desired quality of competition is similar in all sports.
- Students are supported in their efforts to reach high levels of performance by providing them with adequate facilities, competent coaching and appropriate competitive opportunities with students from similar institutions.
- SSU strives to make the student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics an enriching experience, and holds genuine concern for each participant's welfare. The intercollegiate program's foremost goal at all times is to supplement and enrich the first priority of the University, which is academic accomplishment.

Salisbury
STATE UNIVERSITY

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